

# Effect of Platelet-Rich Plasma and Amniotic Membrane in Patients with Rotator Cuff Repair

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## Effect of Platelet-Rich Plasma and Amniotic Membrane in Patients with Rotator Cuff Repair

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**Abstract.** Rotator cuff disorders are the most common source of shoulder problems, ranging from mild strain to massive tears. Platelet-rich plasma (PRP), an autologous blood with platelets concentration above baseline values represents a source of multiple growth factors that promotes tissue repair. This review examines the potential of using PRP to augment rotator cuff repair. Reporting 4 patients with impingement syndrome and supraspinatus tear who underwent decompression acromioplasty and supraspinatus repair augmented with platelet-rich plasma and amniotic membrane. An evaluation was made 3-24 months postoperative using Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (SPADI). Average preoperative pain score is 64%, disability score 54.58%, and total score 58.19%. Average postoperative pain score is 0%, disability score 0.42%, and total score 0.26% (Minimum Detectable Change at 90% confidence for pain score is 18%, disability score 13%, and total score 11%). This result is consequent with research by Luoay Fallouh, stating that improvement is caused by growth factor effects in platelet-rich plasma which promotes soft tissue healing. It can be concluded that platelet-rich plasma and amniotic membrane have promising effects to enhance soft tissue healing in patients with rotator cuff syndrome. Shoulder function is restored with no limitation on daily activity and pain is no longer present.

## 1. Introduction

Approximately 4.5 million patient visits related to shoulder pain occur each year in the United States. Disorders of the rotator cuff range from painful rotator cuff syndromes to full-thickness tears of varying sizes and functional limitations. Outcomes for rotator cuff tears improve with both surgical and nonsurgical treatment [1].

The management of a rotator cuff tear is multifaceted. Choices of conservative management include resting the affected shoulder, analgesia and anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy, activity modification, and subacromial injections of local anesthetic and/or steroid. Operative interventions include arthroscopic debridement of the tear or repair of the torn rotator cuff, with or without subacromial decompression [2].

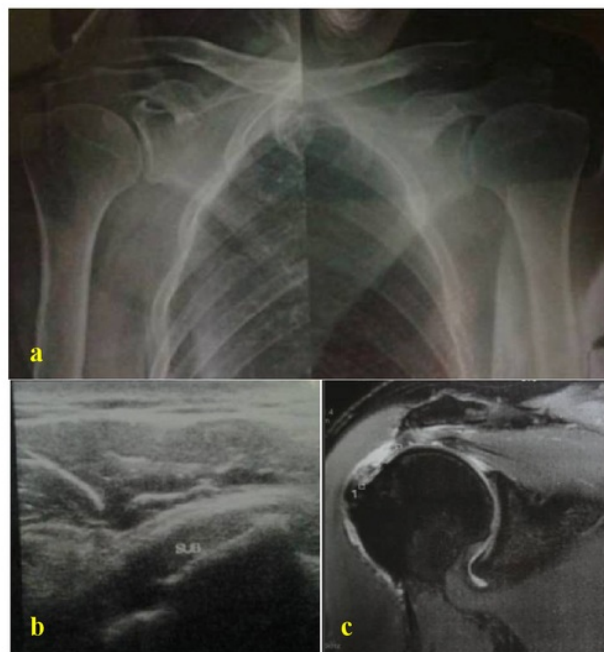
Shoulder arthroscopy has been performed since 1970 and has helped to diagnose, repair, and accelerate healing time [3]. Development in shoulder arthroscopy is increasing every year along with the development of technology and new instruments. Proponents of this technique point to the lower risk of complications such as stiffness, infection, and deltoid avulsions. However, critics emphasize the lack of long-term outcome data, the controversy over the optimal fixation method, and the technical difficulty associated with this procedure [4].

Platelet-rich plasma was developed in the early 1970s as a fraction of plasma in which platelets are concentrated; thus, higher concentrations of the fundamental protein growth factors also exist in platelet-rich plasma. These growth factors are known to induce biological changes in the cell proliferation and matrix metabolism of a variety of connective tissues [5]. Platelet-rich plasma is defined as autologous blood with a concentration of platelets above baseline values. It is

reported to represent a source of multiple growth factors that promote tissue repair [6]. This review examines the potential of using PRP to augment rotator cuff repair.

## 2. Methods

This is a case report descriptive study. The object of this study is 4 patients with impingement syndrome and rotator cuff tear (Figure 1) who underwent decompression acromioplasty and supraspinatus repair. Platelet-rich plasma and amniotic membrane (Figure 2) produced at Tissue Bank Dr. Soetomo General Hospital Surabaya were augmented during surgery (Figure 3). Patients were evaluated 3 months to 2 years postoperatively using Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (SPADI) questionnaire.

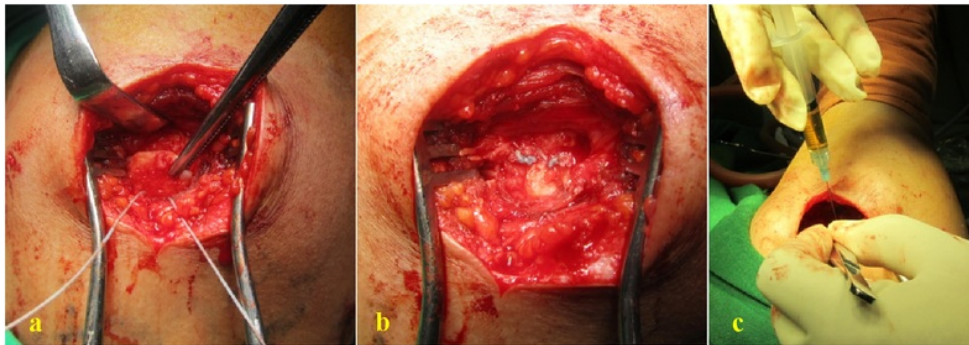


**Figure 1.** (a) X-ray shoulder D/S, (b) USG, (c) MRI



**Figure 2.** Platelet-rich plasma (yellowish liquid inside the spuit) and amniotic membrane (transparent sheet below the spuit)





**Figure 3.** (a) Supraspinatus repair, (b) Amniotic membrane augmentation, (c) PRP augmentation

### 3. Results and Discussion

Average preoperative SPADI pain score is 64%, disability score 54,58%, and total score 58,19%. Average postoperative SPADI pain score is 0%, disability score 0,42%, and total score 0,26% (Minimum Detectable Change at 90% confidence for pain score is 18%, disability score 13%, and total score 11%) as shown in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** SPADI score pre and post surgery

Acceleration of muscle and tendon healing with PRP appears to be promising, but there is currently little clinical evidence to support its use. The efficacy of these PRP preparations is a controversial topic. Both clinical and animal studies, using variable preparation techniques have shown both success and failure. The fact that PRP is safe and prepared from autogenous blood may have allowed well-conducted clinical trials to proceed without optimizing the preparation of an ideal PRP in the laboratory first [6].

Research by Luoay Fallouh et al (2010) says that improvement after PRP augmentation is caused by high level of growth factor and total collagen production in platelet-rich plasma which promotes soft tissue healing [5].

A case report by Alderman (2012) demonstrates the effective use of PRP prolotherapy injections to stimulate repair of partial-thickness tears of rotator cuff tendons, with good results. Ultrasound guidance to ensure accurate placement is important when these specific deficits exist [7].

Hoppe et al (2013) recently showed that platelet-released growth factors heighten tenocyte proliferation and promote synthesis of the extracellular matrix to enhance healing of rotator cuff tendon in a laboratory culture medium [8].

A systematic review by Chahal et al (2012) showed that the use of PRP during rotator cuff repair did not have an effect on the overall retear rates or on several shoulder-specific outcome measures, including the Constant score, ASES score, UCLA shoulder score, SANE score, or SST score. However, there was a decrease in the rate of retear observed among patients treated with PRP in the setting of small- and medium-sized rotator cuff tears [9].

Randelli and colleagues (2011), Jo and colleagues (2011), and Castricini and colleagues (2011) all reported that PRP had no effect on tendon healing rates. Bergeson and colleagues (2012) compared repairs augmented with PRFM (Platelet-Rich Fibrin Matrix) to those without augmentation in tears at-risk for healing and found significantly worse healing in the PRFM group (44%), compared with the non-PRFM group (62%) after arthroscopic repair. Rodeo and colleagues (2012) recently reported similar findings of a negative effect of PRFM augmentation on cuff healing. Overall, these studies support that PRP or PRFM augmentation has a limited role in improving healing rates or outcomes after arthroscopic rotator cuff repair [10-14].

According to Gulotta (2009), some studies have shown that several factors are capable of increasing the strength of repairs in animal models. However, this appears to be accomplished through the production of more scar tissue, as opposed to the regeneration of native tissue. It is becoming clear that multiple factors may be needed to regenerate the native tendon-bone insertion site. The optimal timing and vehicle for growth factor delivery have remained elusive [15].

Given its excellent safety profile and ease of preparation, the use of PRP in sports medicine will likely continue to grow; however, clinical use should proceed cautiously because there is little, if any, high-level clinical evidence supporting the efficacy of this therapeutic modality [6].

#### 4. Conclusion

In summary, PRP has emerged as a promising, but not proven, treatment option for tendon and muscle injuries and disorders. Basic science and animal investigation have begun to help in understanding the mechanism by which PRP affects tissue restoration. Because PRP is autologous and is prepared at the point of care, it also has an excellent safety profile. It may have the ability to transform the care of muscle and tendon injuries in both elite and recreational athletes. Well-designed prospective randomized trials will be required to best understand how, when, and where to use PRP most effectively.

Most surgeons look at the risk-to-benefit ratio before making an operative or nonoperative decision. If the risk of a PRP injection does not pose significant poor consequences but may influence a positive outcome because of accelerated healing, many surgeons may choose to use PRP despite having data to justify its use or cost to the health care system.

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